

Fisheries Conference
“Baltic Sea Fisheries: Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives”

Grand Hotel Saltsjöbaden, Stockholm

1st – 2nd October 2009

Minutes from the Conference

Moderator: Steve Karnicki

Rapporteur: Anna Davies

Day One

Opening: Reine J. Johansson, Chairman of the BS RAC

Reine Johansson welcomed and thanked all the speakers, ministers and guests for attending the conference. He highlighted the importance of the conference, and considered the importance of the problems facing the Baltic Sea fishery today. He mentioned the most important issues to be considered by the BS RAC in the context of the CFP reform, namely subsidies, overcapacity and market and underlined that the goal for the BS RAC is to present credible and constructive proposals to the European Commission. He also mentioned regionalisation: this was the first time that the Green Paper had come with proposals on this subject. The Gdansk Convention had outlived its day, and now 90% of all people around the Baltic were part of the EU. It was important to think about the role of the BS RAC and how it prioritised its work. Fisheries control was under discussion, although the control issue was not just concluded because the situation had improved. Moreover, the subject of discards should be addressed. New, selective gears should be developed in close collaboration with scientists with the aim of eliminating discards in the Baltic fisheries, and it was important to sit down with researchers and work on these issues.

Opening Address: Eskil Erlandsson, Minister for Agriculture Sweden

Greetings and welcome to the conference.

Eskil Erlandsson expressed his dissatisfaction with the current situation in the Baltic Sea. He underlined that the conference is a window of opportunity for the Baltic Sea fisheries. A prosperous fishing sector will be of benefit to many: the fishermen, the industry, the processors and the public at large. Unique solutions were required for the unique Baltic Sea, and regionalisation was the best way to deal with this. He also underlined the importance of the Baltic Sea Strategy. The BS RAC had proved that collaboration between stakeholders is crucial. Stakeholders need to cooperate and listen to one another; collaboration will be of growing importance in the future of fisheries management, especially in the field of fisheries control.

He reminded the conference that the 2007 Baltic RAC Conference on Control and Compliance in Copenhagen had improved the situation, and proved the success of collaboration. But this success can be further enhanced by effective implementation of regulations and control, without entailing excessive cost. More long-term management plans are required for all commercial species in the Baltic; the multi-annual plan for cod was a good example.

Discards need to be eliminated, as they represent a horrific waste of a good resource.

By signing the Stockholm Declaration, the Ministers responsible for fisheries have demonstrated a strong political will to improve the management of the Baltic fisheries and ensure sustainability of the fish resources. The declaration included the aim to balance the fishing fleets with the available resources, to improve collaboration, improve selectivity of fishing gear, as well as the roadmap to eradicate discards in the Baltic Sea.

Moderator: Steve Karnicki: The Aim and Focus of this conference and a historical perspective to the Baltic Sea

Steve Karnicki began by reading a paragraph from the 1973 Gdansk Convention, Article V, which resulted in the establishment of the IBSFC, highlighting the will of its Contracting Parties to cooperate to protect the common fisheries resources. He gave a brief overview of the loss of credibility and transparency of fisheries management, and the problem of the oversized fleet, as well as destructive fishing gears. However, Steve Karnicki insisted that these former mistakes could be transformed into assets, by learning from the past, and looking to the future reform of the CFP. But is the CFP reform going to be enough?? How to ensure ownership of the policy, and how can stakeholder views be incorporated? How to make regional cooperation effective? Here is an opportunity for participation.

Steve Karnicki complemented the former IBSFC secretariat for their excellent work, but stated that the performance of the organisation does not depend on the secretariat alone, but rather on the commitment and the effective involvement of the member states. This is what makes a regional organisation work.

Joe Borg, Commissioner for DG Mare: The reform of the Common fisheries policy: What are the challenges for the Baltic Sea and for the BS RAC?

Joe Borg acknowledged the Baltic Sea as having huge potential for being at the forefront of sustainable fisheries, often one step ahead of fisheries in other European waters, and able to serve as a useful model. As a result of concerted efforts, among others the 2007 Conference on Control and Compliance, the cod stocks are increasing. These signs are encouraging, as they pave the way towards a sustainable fishery. He appreciated the BS RAC proposal of a project on selectivity.

He underlined the need to implement more selective gears to protect young cod. There are many areas which need consideration: the reform of the CFP, inability to deliver on aims of profitability and sustainability, the need to address underlying problems, and to consider new options. Joe Borg suggested re-ordering the priorities upon which the CFP is based. End the overcapacity of the fishing fleet. Look at the larger, long-term picture. Make ecological sustainability a high priority. He suggested the feasibility of a market-based approach, like that which is exemplified in Denmark, with transferable rights, perhaps tradable across the Baltic. Nevertheless, he also drew attention to the importance of small-scale fisheries and their importance to social cohesion and coastal community survival. He continued to suggest a transnational ITQ system, and insisted that there should be no limits to potential tools and innovative ideas.

Regionalisation of the CFP, redistribution of responsibility, and bringing the CFP closer to those whom it will impact. This would, according to Joe Borg, enhance stewardship of the CFP, and encourage much needed flexibility. There is huge potential in a regional approach. Referring to the integrated maritime policy, he stressed that all relevant stakeholders must be included, because

fisheries cannot be seen as separate from other sectors which affect the oceans. Collaboration between sectors will create sustainable and applicable policy plans.

Kazimierz Plocke, Secretary of State of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland: **Future perspectives for the Baltic Sea Fishery and the Environment.**

Kazimierz Plocke thanked the organisers for the opportunity to take part in the conference, and expressed the importance of fisheries and environmental protection in Poland. Referring to regionalisation, he stated that a joint technical body, with the participation of the BS RAC, fishermen and administration, could in the future generate joint positions that are significant to the entire region. .

The concrete solution to the problem of by-catch and discards will require the introduction of new gear and technology. Poland supports all efforts made at improving the selectivity of fishing gears as well as at introducing any other measures to solve this problem until 2011. Poland has also been working towards the elimination of illegal, unreported catches. He underlined the importance to guarantee relative stability in the quota allocation system.

Taking into account the last ICES advice for the Baltic cod fishery advice as well as the fact that the fishing mortality for this stock recommended in the cod recovery plan has been achieved Poland would regard a 25% increase of the quota for the eastern cod stock in line with sustainability criteria. In the last two years, Poland has remarkably improved its compliance to the CFP . Fleet capacity in cod fishery has been reduced by 40%. All cod landings are controlled and managed. Poland is considering the introduction of an ITQ system taking into account the Danish and Swedish experience. Regulations should aim to protect nature, and yet not harm our fishermen; we must reconcile fisheries with environmental stewardship.

Eva Kjer Hansen, Minister for Food, Fisheries and Agriculture, Denmark: **Future Perspectives for the Baltic Sea Fishery and the Environment**

Eva Kjer Hansen began by reminding the audience of the benefits of an effective, close and beneficial cooperation within the Baltic Sea. This was demonstrated by the Copenhagen Conference in 2007, where a consensus was reached, and results are now visible. She showed a clip from a film “For Cod’s Sake,” and suggested that for the cod to survive, still more needs to be done. She highlighted the importance of public perception of fisheries as a threat to nature. If the fishery is considered unethical, consumers may turn their back on fish and fish products. She suggested that certification, e.g. by the Marine Stewardship Council is highly commendable, and will be rewarded by the market.

Eva Kjer Hansen expressed full support to a total discard ban in the Baltic. She stated that discards could be eliminated not only by imposing rules on fishermen but also by changing the management system and by creating incentives to fish in a selective way. .

She mentioned the topic of the Danish camera pilot project, with cameras placed on vessels. Many fishermen have been pleased with the results, and those who have participated in the project have been rewarded with higher quotas.

She concluded with the suggestion to let us use this window of opportunity which the current trend in cod stocks gives us. If we are ready to do so, the Baltic Sea could be considered a first mover in the Baltic Sea fishery. “For Cod’s sake, we did it.”

Discussion and Questions

Niels Wichmann, Managing Director of the Danish Fishermen's Association, questioned relative stability and asked why quota swaps were perceived as a threat to relative stability. In his opinion quota swaps were the best functioning part of the CFP.

Joe Borg commented that relative stability, well protected by member states, has both its pros and cons. Today it is attached to TACs and quotas, but with innovative ideas and technology there is scope for change. For example, relative stability could be linked to effort.

Eva Kjer Hansen insisted that rather than making just cosmetic changes to the CFP, real reform is necessary. It would be a shame to let relative stability overshadow other important issues.

Lena Talvitie, Finnish Fishermen's Association, questioned the possibility of decision-making at a regional level and what level this could imply.

Joe Borg replied that it is important to avoid a multiplication of bodies, so all stakeholders should be involved, and they should be in a position to come up with proposals, rather than remain advisory.

Gert Lindemann, State Secretary Germany, commented that the steps toward reform need to be carefully considered, and stakeholders should not think that this would be redistribution instead of real reform.

Bengt Ingerstam, Swedish Consumers' Coalition, commented that over the past few years there have been very mixed messages from the Swedish government with regard to eating Baltic Sea fish or not. This has created confusion amongst consumers, and he wondered when this confusion will come to an end.

Niki Sporrang, Fisheries Secretariat, questioned the management decisions closer to the stakeholders and regionalisation, and wondered what limits are set by the Treaty to limit regionalisation.

Joe Borg replied that they would consult their legal experts on decision-making. The Commission is dealing with a change of functions, and is allowing the shedding of some functions. He briefly outlined the process involved in a proposal, and expressed that the extent of regional empowerment depends on the signals sent from other involved institutions. He went on to express that relative stability is based on other criteria. Thus if there is a clean fishery, the allocation can continue to be based on TACs. When dealing with a mixed fishery it is necessary to change certain methods of operation, or there will never be a solution to the issue of discards.

Normunds Riekstins, Director of Fisheries Latvia, referred to the fact that relative stability is a sensitive issue for Latvia. In his view selectivity and proper landing sites can settle the problem, so a ban on discards is unnecessary..

Peter Breckling, Union of German Cutter Fishermen, pointed out that the BS RAC has worked because the work is carried out based on facts and figures, rather than being a forum for political agitation. There is less talk of extinction of stocks; rather the effective management of stocks. He expressed respect for the discards issue as an ethical issue, and pointed out that according to forecasts, by 2011 cod may be an intervention species, with 400,000 tonnes of biomass in the Baltic, thus prompting an intervention. Whether or not this is true, scientific management of these species needs to be improved above all else.

Krzystof Skora, Gdansk University, made a comparison of Swedish coasts with Polish coasts, implying a very different management. Decisions can only be made if the necessary information is at

hand. He asked whether we can be sure that the information provided by the national authorities involved is all symmetric and correct. Is the information sufficient for decision-making? And in the context of the Maritime Framework Directive, fisheries should collaborate with other sectors.

Michael Andersen, Danish Fishermen's Association, had further comments on the issue of the importance of discards. He questioned why it is such an issue, and opined that the path to sustainability would be not to catch the fish in the first place. He also expressed concerns about the new Control Regulation; it was important not to be tied down by a control regulation pushed through before the adoption of a new CFP.

Alex Wenblad, Swedish Board of Fisheries, pointed out the common understanding to a ban, or to eradicate discards, and wanted an indication of the importance of the BS RAC in this. Would Reine Johansson be willing for the BS RAC to take the lead in the work to eradicate discards?

Reine Johansson replied that the problem is not an approach to a discard ban. He was concerned about exclusion, and every member state putting a discard ban into place, which would be a failure of the entire system. He highlighted the importance of keeping promises, and being part of the reform. He expressed a belief that once results are seen, a report can be presented, and ministers can make decisions on discard bans. He stated that the RAC must deliver, and not be undecided.

Gunnar Norén, CCB, asked about Baltic salmon and whether the Commission was willing to develop actions to ensure the correct reporting and recording of catches.

Joe Borg replied that the Commission was in the process of finalising a management plan for Baltic Sea salmon and the illegal catches. He added that new control regulation would soon be adopted, and insisted that the regulation must not be rendered toothless, and should not simply be a cosmetic change. He said that the system must become easy for honest fishermen, and hard for dishonest fishermen. These discussions will be further examined in Brussels on 8th October. He then commented that discards are a continued waste of precious resources. The Commission, he said, is willing to work closely with the RACs to reduce discards, but it does depend on the scale of the problem.

Eva Kjer Hansen also warned against neglect of the importance of discards, as it affects the image of the fisheries sector, and thus will affect the views of the consumer. Therefore it is a problem, even if it is only limited to a 1% discard level.

Stefanie Schmidt, DG Mare: **The Baltic Sea Fish Stocks – current management and challenges ahead**

Stefanie Schmidt gave an introduction to the Baltic Sea, from a hydrological perspective. She highlighted the sensitivities of the Baltic Sea, and pointed out that the increased human activities have created a competition for space, further threatening the important fish stocks. She provided an overview of the fish stocks in the Baltic Sea, their current biomass volume, and the level of threat posed to each of the stocks. She identified cod and salmon as the economically most important fish stocks. It is difficult to monitor the fishing fleet, as many of the fishermen move between the North Sea and the Baltic seas, depending on the season. However, she pointed out that 70% of the fishery in the Baltic is small-scale (< 12m in length), which does have an effect upon any interventions made.

The current regulatory framework, adaptation of the fishing quotas, improved control system, and fleet restructuring is a strategy which is going well. She gave an outline of the issues that lay ahead. The reform of the CFP will set the scene for fisheries management after 2015. Discards is an issue which still needs to be tackled, not just for the cod stocks, but for all fish species. Overcapacity was another issue. Regionalisation also needs to be considered – what are the procedural means of regionalisation? In addition to this was integration with other policies, such as maritime spatial planning and integrated maritime policy. A clean Baltic Sea, combined with ecosystem management should be carried out on a regional level: here the RAC could take an active role. Finally, the Baltic Sea Strategy: how could it be used to go beyond existing policies?

Harm Koster, Community Fisheries Control Agency: **The state of play of fisheries control in the Baltic Sea**

Harm Koster expressed his appreciation of the 2007 BS RAC conference on control. He recognised that the unreported cod fishery is a major threat, and suggested that up to 40% went unrecorded in 2007. Since then many measures have been taken to reduce this number, and ICES reports that for 2008 unreported landings for western Baltic cod were only 6%. Thus, there are visible improvements, important progress has been made, and this should be consolidated. But we are still far from a culture of compliance in the Baltic Sea. Policy will never achieve its objectives if it is not fully implemented and complied with.

Joint campaigns to improve compliance will require common risk analysis and sharing data. They will also require cooperation from the member states, and strong control of scarce resources, transparency, trust building, announcement of results, a constructive climate of cooperation, trust between states. Harm Koster concluded with the hope that member states will continue to work effectively, as they have done, towards a culture of compliance.

Hans Joachim Wilms, European Economic and Social Committee: **The EESC position on the Common Fisheries Policy.**

Hans Joachim Wilms commenced by explaining what the EESC represents: a voluntary basis representation of the different segments of society. He acknowledged the importance of the Green Paper on the CFP reform as the first step on a long and difficult path. He suggested looking at other examples, such as that of New Zealand, the use of TACs and tackling fishing effort.

He proposed that relative stability needs to be redefined, so that it takes into account the fishing effort. This would help to achieve the desired reduction in the fishing fleet, adapted to the size of the fish stocks. Fishing should be seen as one of many sectors which need restructuring. He advocated that the fishery should work in compliance with the needs of environmental protection. He highlighted the important role of a healthy fishery in regional management and social cohesion. He suggested that the current economic climate and the fluctuating fuel prices will affect fisheries in hitherto unknown ways, and that diversification of the sector, e.g. encompassing tourism, will help to preserve, and perhaps even create jobs, and thus enhance resilience.

Questions and Discussion

Walter Ranke, former IBSFC Secretary, commented on the discussions by looking back to a conference in June 1972 to consider the future of the Baltic Sea, the first step towards the creation of the IBSFC. He stated that at the time, this was a unique trans-boundary gathering, held before the UN Law of the Sea Conference, and dealt with how to operate within the enclosed and semi-

enclosed sea. He expressed gratitude to Sweden, and to the Conference, and noted that it was worth remembering the roots of cooperation in marine affairs.

Axel Wenblad, Swedish Board of Fisheries, asked Stephanie Schmidt about the future and climate change, and how the Commission plans to prepare for the effects of climate change, in particular regarding freshwater run-off and the effect on ecosystems??

Anita Storm, Nordic Coastal Fisherwomen, asked a question about the situation of the seals in the Baltic Sea.

Stephanie Schmidt replied that there is currently no plan for dealing with climate change within the Baltic Sea fisheries. However, ICES has been consulted. The system, she said, forces us to consider the most pressing problems and admitted that dialogue is important, but that it is currently missing. The question about seal populations in the Baltic was an issue of environmental policy.

Robert Aps, University of Tartu, Estonia, commented that 30 years of fisheries management has, up till now, focused upon biological management, and he considered it prudent to also consider the economics of the fishery. He indicated that the Green Paper might consider the economics of the fishery, while also ensuring sustainable stock levels.

Teemu Tast, Federation of Fishermen in Southern Finland, highlighted that the sustainable use of marine resources thus far had only looked at fish and molluscs, ignoring seal populations. He said that seals can be used to a degree, but not if it is a profitable industry, and he warned that if the seals are allowed to continue to grow (10%/year), then they will continue to affect the fish populations.

Kari Ranta-aho, Employment and Economic Development Centre of SW Finland, commented that cameras onboard vessels was seen as control, and he asked if the pilot project was going to be extended. He asked how other technical measures can be applied.

Alex Olsen Espersen, IAPCE-CEP, pronounced that the processing industry is already doing what they have been asked to do; what more can be done?

Harm Koster said that he rated the camera project highly, but also highlighted other actions, such as electronic logbooks, cooperation with the processing industry and labelling schemes such as MSC. The fishing industry should be able to give their opinion on the technical measures. Harm Koster continued by saying that he would want the processing industry to buy only legally caught fish, and he questioned whether this is really being done. He suggested that there should be improved cooperation between control and the processing industry to ensure that only legally caught fish enters the market. MSC labelled fish is being sold at a higher price, thus strangling the illegal fishery.

Adam Jakubiak: Polish Fisheries Chamber, asked why there is such a difference between the number of controls carried out in the Baltic, compared to the North Sea.

Harm Koster responded by saying that in the Baltic there are controls upon vessels, not only from the member state, but also across the nations. Controls are not carried out depending on what flag is flown; all fishermen are treated equally, he said. In the North Sea there is a far lower density of fishing boats, and the fishing is far more spread out over a much larger region than in the Baltic. The Baltic solutions are suggested for the Baltic, and are not a solution for all.

Normunds Riekstins, Fisheries Director Latvia, expressed concern that the simplification aspect of controls is being ignored. He said that he does not believe that the camera pilot project is viable, that it does not encourage a culture of compliance, but rather a culture of spying.

Pim Visser, European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions, wanted to shift the focus from control at sea to control on land and what this shift could do to the relevant infrastructure.

Harm Koster expressed disagreement with this, saying that the market is demanding fisheries to be inspected and certified. Control should occur at sea, as well as on land.

Pim Visser insisted that the MSC labelling should not be abused for control purposes.

Harm Koster responded that the MSC is a private sector of the fishing industry, and that legal fishing should have the highest market value, if the consumer is willing to pay for it. Currently consumers have been frightened away from caught wild fish, because of its poor reputation.

Day Two

Moderator Steve Karnicki: Summary of Day One

Steve Karnicki gave a short summary of the first day of the conference. (The summary forms the basis of the conclusions from the conference).

Marcus Öhman, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden: **The Baltic Sea Strategy**

Marcus Öhman began with a glance at the satellite view of the Baltic Sea and its catchment area, in order to highlight the necessity of the importance of the Baltic Sea strategy, finding a common ground and taking a macro-perspective of the region. The strategy is about taking a regional approach on a range of issues. He reiterated the four main pillars of the strategy: environmentally sustainable, economically prosperous, safe and secure, and accessible and attractive. Within these pillars are 15 priority areas, and number nine - fisheries within the Baltic Sea - will be coordinated by Sweden.

Policy areas are implemented through action: strategic action and cooperative action. Cooperation is vital for success. The Baltic Sea Strategy is a platform for prioritised actions: eradicating discards; improving control and stopping illegal fishing; reducing the overcapacity of the fishing fleet; developing and improving coordination and cooperation among member states and stakeholders; enhancing the effects of the European Fisheries Fund; ensuring sustainable fishing through various activities; and improving aquaculture. Marcus Öhman declared that the Baltic Sea Strategy is a platform for meetings, collaboration and cooperation.

Draft Council Conclusions on the Strategy were agreed on 25th September 2009, and will be adopted on 26th October 2009 at GAC/GAERC. The various actions are expected to start in 2010.

Christoph Humborg, Director Baltic Nest Institute: **The external threats to the Baltic Sea: how can we meet them?**

What is the Baltic Sea Nest Institute? It is a decision support system aimed at facilitating adaptive management of environmental concerns in the Baltic Sea. It is built up of six building blocks, which can be used as modelling tools. This has already been in use, for example by HELCOM with the Baltic Sea Action Plan, aiming to reduce nutrient inflow to the Baltic Sea. To reach a better status of the Baltic, there is a need to reduce nutrient levels. Some good news is that nitrogen and phosphorous levels have fallen. However, there are threats.

Christoph Humborg suggested that one external threat to the Baltic is land use change, as a result of increased prosperity and changing diets in the entire region. More people have increased meat consumption, which is changing agriculture patterns, and thus changing nutrient flows. Different

fertiliser applications affect the nitrate concentrations in the Baltic rivers. Could these changes result in regime shifts in the Baltic Sea? Global climate change could also translate into changes in run-off patterns into the Baltic. Carbon leakage from boreal watersheds could increase carbon concentration in the Baltic. Salinity is expected to decrease in the future, and this is expected to have a major effect on fisheries. Due to global climate change regime shifts may occur more often in the future, and this should be taken into account by governance strategies by using early warning indicators such as zooplankton species. In conclusion, the good news was the fall in nutrient inputs, it was recommended to eat less animal protein, and to address the threats from global warming by using early warning indicators.

Mogens Schou, Special advisor to Minister Eva Kjer Hansen, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries: **A Case History: the ITQ system in the Danish fishery in the Baltic: experience and future prospects**

Mogens Schou began by articulating the results of the ITQ system in Denmark so far. The ITQ system is based on full market operation, and this allows for a higher profit compared to work without the ITQ. Less capacity would result in higher profits for fishermen. He suggested that there is currently no effective solution for fleet capacity adaptations, as the CFP and fisheries economic incentives are currently incompatible. Mogens Schou posed the question of whether it is possible to align rules, frameworks as well as fishermen incentives. He identified two major problems: overcapacity of the fishing fleet, and discards, and from the Danish side there was a two pillar concept on principles for management: management by transferable rights and catch quotas.

As for Danish fisheries policy, the key to balancing fleet capacity is through transferable rights, which provide the maximum incentive to optimise capital input. Mogens Schou asked what the best way is to implement initial allocations. What kind of ownership should each fisherman have over his quotas? He promoted the idea of the catch quota concept: an incentive to optimise the value of the entire catch landed. This would enable fishermen to fish selectively, increase catch quotas, use certification systems, fish legally without economic losses, provide science with correct data, and have access to certified sustainability. For this, each fisherman must take responsibility for his own actions.

Mogens Schou presented a simulation of the results on discards and earnings, based on findings in the Danish camera pilot project. These simulations suggest that there is a strong incentive to discard fish, unless some incentive is implemented. He referred to an ICES reply from October 1st 2009 to the Commission on selectivity in the Baltic cod fishery, where the Baltic Sea is proposed as a candidate for managing the cod fishery through a target based management. Such management would allow fishermen to adjust their gear or fishing pattern to suit situations on the grounds. This would remove the need for the large scale and frequent changes to regulations which have caused many of the urgent problems. Thus there is a requirement for management based on catches rather than landings.

Katarina Veem, Programme Director Baltic 2020: **Best Practices: Global, European and Baltic Perspectives**

Katarina Veem commenced by explaining the aim to improve the quality of the Baltic Sea by the target year 2020 and gave the background to the Best Practices Study and its recommendations. She gave examples of where fisheries management has seen success throughout the world, and asked what Europe can learn from this?? She presented three important case studies: Norway, USA and Canada and presented an overview of the strong drivers for success in the three case studies. The

study has identified three key issues: evidence, discussion and compliance. She also mentioned the importance of stakeholders, as well as the role and responsibility of reliable science. Decision-making needs to prioritise the objectives; long-term plans need to balance with short-term demands and transparency; and participation needs to be developed to encourage trust and engagement from participants. There should be regionalisation and the division of responsibility between national and regional aspects. Katarina Veem also highlighted the importance of reduction in capacity to harmonize with the fishing opportunities. Abolish subsidies, ban discards and reduce unreported and unregulated catches through regional enforcement collaborations. She insisted that the improved cod stocks are a golden opportunity for dialogue to ensure increased cod growth in the future.

Richard Adams, European Economic and Social Committee: **The conditions required for reconciling the conflicting values embodied in the CFP.**

Richard Adams began with a brief introduction to the EESC as an organisation working on the development of social enterprise and consumer issues. The sustainability of fish stocks will affect food sustainability and the sustainability of social communities.

He reflected that the Green Paper has a miraculous vision, of changes to occur only 11 years from now. It is optimistic, but we must reconcile what he sees as conflicting values of the CFP. He suggested that the CFP is one of the most well devised EU policies, and it is being put under increasing pressure.

Richard Adams invoked the idea of the tragedy of the commons; he suggested that the EU may not be able to turn this tragedy into an experience of triumph, but that we should try nonetheless. He deemed the CFP to be incoherent, lacking in integrated maritime policy, and he suggested that the situation cannot be corrected unless the underpinning values are revised. Sustainable exploitation replaced by sustainable development, precautionary approach replaced by precautionary principle, introduction of a new global integrated approach covering the entire chain, and he expressed a hope that the forthcoming reform of the CFP will bring the necessary solutions.

Alex Olsen, CEO A. Espersen, **the Baltic Sea fishing industry and markets view on responsible resource management**

Alex Olsen began with a presentation of Espersen A/S as one of the world leaders in fish processing. He presented the processing industry's market view on responsible resource management. He highlighted the ever-increasing demands from customers for sustainable and responsible fishing practices. The Baltic Sea cod has had a bad reputation over the past years; thus the cod has been hard to sell.

He gave a brief history and overview of the company's activities: food processing, frozen fish blocks. Production in Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, China, Vietnam, with its head office in Rønne, Bornholm.

He identified the problems in the Baltic as having been overcapacity and lack of political will to adjust fleet capacity, and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. However, since the 2007 Conference there have been improvements in Poland, fleet capacity has been reduced, and control has been improved, and cod stocks have recovered somewhat. Alex Olsen asked how the processing industry can help to improve the situation and improve measurement of cod stocks.

He informed that the eastern cod stock will be put to full MSC assessment by summer 2010; thus it could become the first cod stock in the EU to get MSC certification. This is important for customer perceptions. He went on to present an array of surveys carried out about customer perceptions and

customer preferences, all of which point to the desire for sustainable fishery, with responsibility falling to governments. (Data on consumer behaviour is available on the OECD website).

He went on to look to the future, with a hope for affordable fishery products to the European consumer. Fisheries are to be sustainable and responsibly managed, with better control, catch quotas, a move towards effort based management and individual transferable quotas, and a high grading ban.

Yvonne Walter (Swedish Board of fisheries) **Practical examples of how we can improve research and cooperation around the Baltic Sea**

Yvonne Walter suggested that cooperation in science is important. She gave practical examples of how to improve research and cooperation around the Baltic, to include enlightened, interested users of the science within the Baltic Sea. There is a high interest today into what is being done and how. Enlightened passionate users of the end product. However today we lack transparency. There needs to be an improved interface between stakeholders, users and producers; all have responsibilities for the process. The product can then be used by politicians to create policy.

She saw one of the perceived obstacles as being the media; a good story to the media is a bad story. It is important to be aware of the community, and to listen to what they say vs. what they want. This is a difficult issue, in which it is hard to ask the right questions. It is an iterative process, where we learn from one another, for example how we talk about the issue of discards.

She proposed that we must aim for a participatory approach to fisheries management, where we engage stakeholders, collect data, conduct interviews, interpret results, provide feedback and provide results for management; science underpinning management planning. She gave some concrete examples of research projects that she has taken part in: bycatch sampling in the industrial fishery, the JOIFISH project, fishery based sampling, a young fishermen network, and the BS RAC Science Workshop.

Learning and cooperation increases resolution – enlightened self-interest, passionate users, future cooperation.

Mike Sissenwine (Chair ICES Advisory Committee) **A vision of the Baltic Sea fisheries management after CFP reform**

Mike Sissenwine pointed out that he was speaking as a member of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He expressed a long interest and involvement in the CFP, since his initial awareness in 1982.

He presented the vision of the EU's Green Paper: high quality seafood, an end to overfishing, recovering stocks, profitable fisheries, new recruits, an efficient fleet wholly free from subsidies, environmentally friendly boats and a capacity matched to the resource base.

He suggested that negative incentives include a competition for fish instead of for profits, overcapacity, future gains sacrificed to avoid short-term losses, eroded political will, circumvention of rules, doubt rather than solutions, opposition of science rather than support. Instead, the future needs to be shaped by positive incentives.

Positive incentives include operational incentives and guidelines, regionalisation and co-management, transparency, rights associated with obligations, participatory approach and reversal of the burden of proof, accountability and penalties for non-compliance.

He went on to touch on what he sees as some of the major issues facing the CFP today: the problem of discards, lack of transparency, TACs vs. effort limits.

He concluded with a return to the ideal vision of the Green Paper. He was optimistic that dialogue and incentives for change can lead to an achievement of the vision. He underlined regionalisation as one of the key elements.

Questions and Discussion

Mogens Schou, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, wondered whether transferable and flexible quotas could allow the fisherman to manage the quota he needs for the season and the place that he is in.

Mike Sissenwine agreed. In his experience a total limit upon the fishing of one species is guaranteed to create lots of discards.

Michael Andersen, Danish Fishermen's Association, added that where the quota reflects the stock fairly, this can be successfully done. However this is not often the case; the quota often reflects a political situation. In a mixed fishery this would need to be tackled.

Normunds Riekstins, Director of Fisheries Latvia, said that some of the tools discussed could be adapted to Latvia, and to other member states, but there should not be generalisation. Each member state has different traditions and historical legislations. He said that dealing with the discards issue would require new and innovative thinking, rather than repetition of the same thoughts. Discards have now been acknowledged as a problem, but he suggested that other problems should be considered too.

Mike Sissenwine admitted that it would be a long and laborious task, but that the diverse views were bound to come together at some stage. He suggested that it would be more fruitful to have the variations of opinion on the table during the initial phases, rather than be surprised later on. He said that meetings can be public, and participation be by the public; however this requires work, and a huge amount of staff. Undoing decisions later might be more difficult than dealing with them at the offset.

Henrik Svenberg, Swedish Fishermen's Federation, was critical about the declaration signed on the previous day, deeming that it was not ambitious enough on regionalisation. He expressed that the bar should be higher, and questioned who should be formulating this. He suggested that political will on these points is lacking.

Steve Karnicki responded that this will have to be addressed if it is what is wanted. It would be the RAC which would have an important role in this issue.

Steve Karnicki summed up the main conclusions from the conference. He then closed the conference. He thanked everyone for participating, and thanked the RAC Secretariat, interpreters and technical staff for their work.